FIRST COMICS
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E-MAN
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E-MAIL

c/o FIRST COMICS
1014 DAVIS STREET
EVANSTON, ILLINOIS
60201

Dear Joe:

Every now and then an issue like E-Man #23 is necessary. A new reader can get a good idea from what has gone before by such an issue. To see such a wide and varied cast in one book was quite a treat. It would seem that it took a wrap-around cover to show them all and I would like to thank Joe for his extra effort.

Now for some suggestions: More Tyger Lili. She makes an excellent supporting character and I would not mind her being the center of attention once in a while. She is also not ugly to the eyes. More Crimestomper's Textbook. This is a cute, clever vehicle for Mauser, and I hope you keep it as a regular feature. I know this next suggestion is rather contradictory to my admiration for E-Man's supporting cast, but I would occasionally like to see our hero solve a case completely on his own. I would very much like to see an E-Man story without Mauser, Teddy, or Nova hanging around. Naturally, I would not care for a steady diet of this, but I think you should give it a try from time to time.

Adam Burchess
1004A Westover Dr.
Greenville, NC 27834

Okay, but only if you promise to stop eating comic books.

Dear Joe and Mike:

When I bought a copy of E-Man #23 I also bought a D.C. comic called *Crisis on the Infinite Earths*. The latter was said to feature a cast of thousands. I think E-Man #23 topped their cast by at least an even dozen.

Good to see Tyger Lili, The F-Men, Big Al, and the Battery again. I just wish that Mauser could have been there with the B-Team for the final shoot-out.

I hope you can re-unite this cast for the "See-Thru Wars II," which could go maxi-series, include all the other E-Man characters that weren't in issue #23 (such as Donald Duke, Mielar Snuggs, The Psychobabbler, Hell's Hornets, The ghost of Albert Einstein, and the little girl on page 22 of E-Man #11).

In closing, thank everyone involved for another fine year of E-Man. This may not be your hottest comic, but it has a special appeal to many of us (I wear an E-Man logo t-shirt as I type this), and I always read every issue with delight and joy. (Insert appropriate joke about two girls named "Delight" and "Joy.") This is one of my favorite comics. Here's hoping that you have a great 1985.

T.E. Pouncey
Soon to Be a Graphic Novel

Ah, hes ... I can see the first issue now — Mike Mauser dons a new trenchcoat, made of living organic matter derived from a strange mold growing in his file cabinet...

Dear First:

The publication of your first issues of Nexus and The Badger has raised an interesting question. You are now publishing four titles that were originally published by other companies:

1. The Badger, originally published by Capital Comics; your first issue was #5.
2. Nexus, originally published by Capital Comics; your first issue was #7.
3. Starslayer, originally published by Pacific Comics; your first issue was #7.
4. E-Man, originally published by Charlton Comics; your first issue was #1.

My question to you is as follows: Why did E-Man begin its First Comics run with #1, while the other titles continued the numbering from their original publishers?

Gary Dunaier
67-18 Parsons Blvd.
Flushing, NY 11365

A good question Gary. Worthy of inclusion in Trivial Pursuit, the Comic Book Edition. And there are two, interrelated answers: 1) Because there was a seven year gap between Charlton's last issue of **E-Man** *and our first, whereas we picked up all the others within a year of their previous incarnations; and 2) We started out fresh in* **E-Man** *#1 with a new writer and a new direction, whereas the others maintained the existing continuity. As a matter of fact, our first issues of both* **Nexus** *and* **The Badger** *were "middle" chapters of continuing stories that began in the Capital issues.*

And for those of you who like #1 issues, there may be another **E-Man** *#1 in the near future. Stay tuned for details.*

— Rick Oliver

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A FIRST COMICS PUBLISHING PRODUCTION

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! THE CLUB SLEEZO TAKES REAL PRIDE IN PRESENTIN'--STRAIGHT FROM CHANNEL 99'S "CHAMBER OF HORRORS"--THE MULTITOODINOUS TALENTED, MIZ NOVA KANE--
--DOIN' THE KONG-A!
THIS IS WHAT I GET FOR HIRING THE GRANDSON OF FAY WRAY'S AGENT!
BUMM
BUMM BARUMM
BUMM
Whom the Gods would Destroy...
S-MAN
CREATED BY
NICOLA CUTI WRITER
JOE STATON PENCILLER
RICK BURCHETT INKER
KEN BRUZENAK LETTERER
WENDY FIORE COLORIST
RICK OLIVER EDITOR

ANOTHER DR. BROWN FOR YOU, SIR, AND A THIRD EUCALYPTUS LEAF EXTRACT FOR YOUR... FRIEND?
WE'LL JUST NURSE THESE. WE CAME FOR THE SHOW.
DON'T NOBODY MOVE! THIS IS A HOLDUP!
PUNKS AIN'T GONNA RIP ME OFF AGAIN.
HEY! DON'T GO FOR IT, CAT!
AURGH!
KA-BLAM!
HO, JEEZ!
I TOLD YA! WHERE THERE'S KANE, E-MAN AIN'T FAR BEHIND!
GROWL!
SO WHAT? HE AIN'T BULLETPROOF-- AND I GOT DUM-DUM'S IN MY HEATER!
UNGH!
THUNK!
BLAM!

NOVA, WOULD YOU CHECK ON THAT WOUNDED GUNMAN? I-I THINK I MIGHT HAVE HIT HIM A LITTLE TOO HARD.
SURE, HONEY. JUST RELAX. I'M SURE HE'LL BE FINE.
HE'S-JUST A KID! WHY DID HE DO THIS?
WELL, HE WON'T BE DOING IT AGAIN.
HE'S DEAD!
HONEY, HE KILLED THAT BOUNCER, AND HE WAS GOING TO KILL YOU! WHAT ELSE COULD YOU DO?
BUT, NOVA-IN MY BILLIONS OF YEARS OF EXISTENCE, TRAVELING FROM WORLD TO WORLD, I'VE NEVER TAKEN A LIFE! I NEVER HAD TO.
IN ONE SHORT DECADE ON MY ADOPTED HOME--I KILL!
WHAT HAVE I BECOME?
YOU DID WHAT YOU HAD TO DO! SO WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT-GO OFF TO SOME SOUTH SEA ISLAND AND STEW?

GOTTA LEARN TO CONTROL THAT TEMPER OF MINE.
WHOOM!
WELL, TEDDY--DO YOU THINK HE'S REALLY HEADED FOR THE SOUTH PACIFIC?
A TRAMP STEAMER HEADS FOR FIJI, CARRYING TWO... UNUSUAL PASSENGERS.
SORRY ABOUT THE LESS THAN LUXURIOUS ACCOMODATIONS, TEDDY, BUT IT'S ALL WE COULD AFFORD. I DOUBT WE'LL FIND E-MAN BASKING ON A SUNNY BEACH...
...IN HIS STATE OF MIND, IT'S...SLUM CITY.
IF THESE MARKED UP TRAVEL FOLDERS YOU FOUND IN HIS ROOM ARE ANY INDICATION, HE'S BEEN THINKING ABOUT THIS TRIP FOR A LONG TIME...
...EVER SINCE THE LAST TRIP YOU BOTH TOOK TO THESE PARTS.*
*E-MAN #22--RICK.

...AFTER A FEW INQUIRIES.
5.0 BEER
YEAH, HE'S HERE. HE'S OVER IN THAT CORNER TABLE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'VE COMPLETELY FALLEN APART IN ONLY A FEW DAYS. YOU ALWAYS TOOK SUCH PRIDE IN YOURSELF, WHETHER YOU WERE E-MAN OR ALEC.
FORGET ME, NOVA. I'M TOO FAR GONE. IT'S NO USE--YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME.
HOW DID YOU SAY THAT? YOU DIDN'T EVEN MOVE YOUR LIPS?
WHY DO YOU ALWAYS DO THIS TO ME?
SORRY, NOVA, BUT YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE COME AFTER ME. I STILL HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO SORT THINGS OUT, AND UNTIL I DO I'D RATHER NOT SEE ANYONE ...ESPECIALLY YOU.
YOU'RE NOT THINKING ABOUT ...LEAVING EARTH-- RETURNING TO OUTER SPACE, ARE YOU?
I THOUGHT ABOUT IT... SEVERAL TIMES.

I'VE GROWN TO LOVE THIS WORLD, ITS PEOPLE, AND ESPECIALLY YOU, NOVA. BUT NOW I'M BEGINNING TO THINK THIS WHOLE PLANET MIGHT BE BETTER OFF WITHOUT ME.
YOU'VE KILLED A MAN. IT'S SAD--BUT IT HAPPENS.
A BEING AS POWERFUL AS ME CAN'T AFFORD TO LET IT HAPPEN. I'VE GOT TO BE ALONE--TO THINK THIS OUT.
THERE'S A TINY ISLAND, WHICH NOT MANY PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT. NO TOURISTS. JUST A FEW NATIVES. IT'S QUIET THERE.
WHEN ARE YOU LEAVING?
EEEYYYYA!
THE TIDE'S RIGHT. THOUGHT I'D GO NOW.
GO AND SEE IF I CARE, YOU METAMORPHIC WEIRDO! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF YOUR JOKES AND YOUR QUICK CHANGES AND... AND...
...AND GOD, I LOVE YOU SO MUCH!
I HATED TO SAY GOOD-BYE TO NOVA THAT WAY--BUT MAYBE IT WILL KEEP HER FROM COMING AFTER ME.

FIRST NOTES

REALITY? WHAT REALITY?

Here's a horrible thought. What if it turns out Bernard Goetz used to read comic books as a kid?

As comics readers, we enjoy something that closely resembles a reality warp. Most of us (I hope) are typical, non-violent people — we work for a living or we go to school, we enjoy healthy social lives and we may be married with children.

But we enjoy secret lives. Maybe we don't dream about dressing up as superheroes and going out to fight crime, but in our moments of relaxation, when the movie theater is too far away, the television set is too boring, the book shelves too weighty, and the rock concerts too loud, we whip out our stack of unread comic books and escape to a world we never made.

And thank the powers that be we never made it.

I do not want to comment specifically on the Bernard Goetz case. For one thing, I'm writing this in February and you're reading this in April; a lot of things can happen in two months.

But Bernard Goetz — whether he wanted to or not — has become the symbol of the unmasked vigilante: the lone man operating beyond the limits of the law, the man who stands between us and total anarchy. He has taken on the image of America's real-world Batman.

Frankly, we're a whole lot safer keeping our fantasies on newsprint. Confusing fiction with reality can be extremely dangerous.

Protestations of the National Rifle Association aside, whenever the law-abiding citizens pick up hand guns, the first two groups of people they shoot, in order, are: 1) themselves, and 2) each other. The bad guys rarely get their dues.

The real miracle of the Goetz event is not that he failed to kill four would-be/might-be muggers right there on the spot, but that in the extremely confined space of a New York subway car, Goetz failed to hit a truly innocent bystander.

I'm not saying you shouldn't use a gun to defend yourself — *if* you are able. But remember, most people charged in cases of murder or assault plead self-defense.

The more law-abiding citizens believe it is okay to become vigilantes, the more likely it is that a vigilante is going to come up against another of the same ilk. Then both of them will be "only defending themselves."

It is like a nuclear chain reaction: violence breeds violence, and it does not matter if the intent is pure or evil. When we all become vigilantes, we won't have to protect society from anarchy. We'll already be there.

Let's keep our fantasies where they are safe — in our comic books, where they belong.

HOUSEHOLD HINTS #1

In one of my more coordinated actions last January, I managed to do a belly-flop right on my elbow, dislocating the sucker and fracturing one of the bones in the general vicinity. Upon leaving the hospital, the wise and sage emergency room doctor gave me a prescription for pain killers.

Evidently, the pharmacist had a real sense of humor and put my pain killers in a child-proof bottle. Whereas these bottles wouldn't fool a pinhead, they are difficult to open if 1) you have arthritis or 2) have one of your arms in a cast.

Necessity being the mother of invention, I quickly figured out a way to get my medicine. You may want to paste this bit of information onto the inside of your medicine cabinet.

First, you take two lengths of tape and strap and bottle — lengthwise — down on a solid table. Then, you take a hammer and, being careful to use your good arm, you carefully line the hammer up with the child-proof cap, swing back and...

SNOTTY RESPONSE TO A SNOTTY RESPONSE

In its coverage of our ground-breaking computer-generated **Shatter,** *Business Week* magazine asked two of our competitors why they weren't doing something with computers. In response, they said they were waiting for more sophisticated software. I guess they had to say something.

Given the fact that one of these competitors routinely uses among the cheapest color separations, the cheapest paper and the cheapest printing presses for the vast majority of its output, I can't help but wonder how they define "sophisticated."

I guess it's tough being second.

— Mike Gold

FIRST IN APRIL

American Flagg #23 — Reuben and the cast of Mark Thrust are off in London as **Howard Chaykin** begins "England Swings," and **Alan Moore** continues his look at New Kansas, focusing in on the misadventures of Raul the Cat.

Elric: Sailor on the Seas of Fate #2 (mini-series): Continuing the **Roy Thomas/Michael T. Gilbert/George Freeman** adaptation of the classic sword and sorcery novel by **Michael Moorcock.**

E-Man #25 — E-Man tries to take a vacation, courtesy of **Nicola Cuti, Joe Staton,** and **Rich Burchett** — but instead, the Energy Man becomes "Whom the Gods Would Destroy!"

Grimjack #13 — A case of cat-and-mouse, as Grimjack is wanted for murder and his best friend must bring him in! **John Ostrander** and **Timothy Truman** provide the action. Also in this issue: the conclusion to the Ostrander-**Bill** *(Journey)* **Loebs** origin of Jericho Noleski!

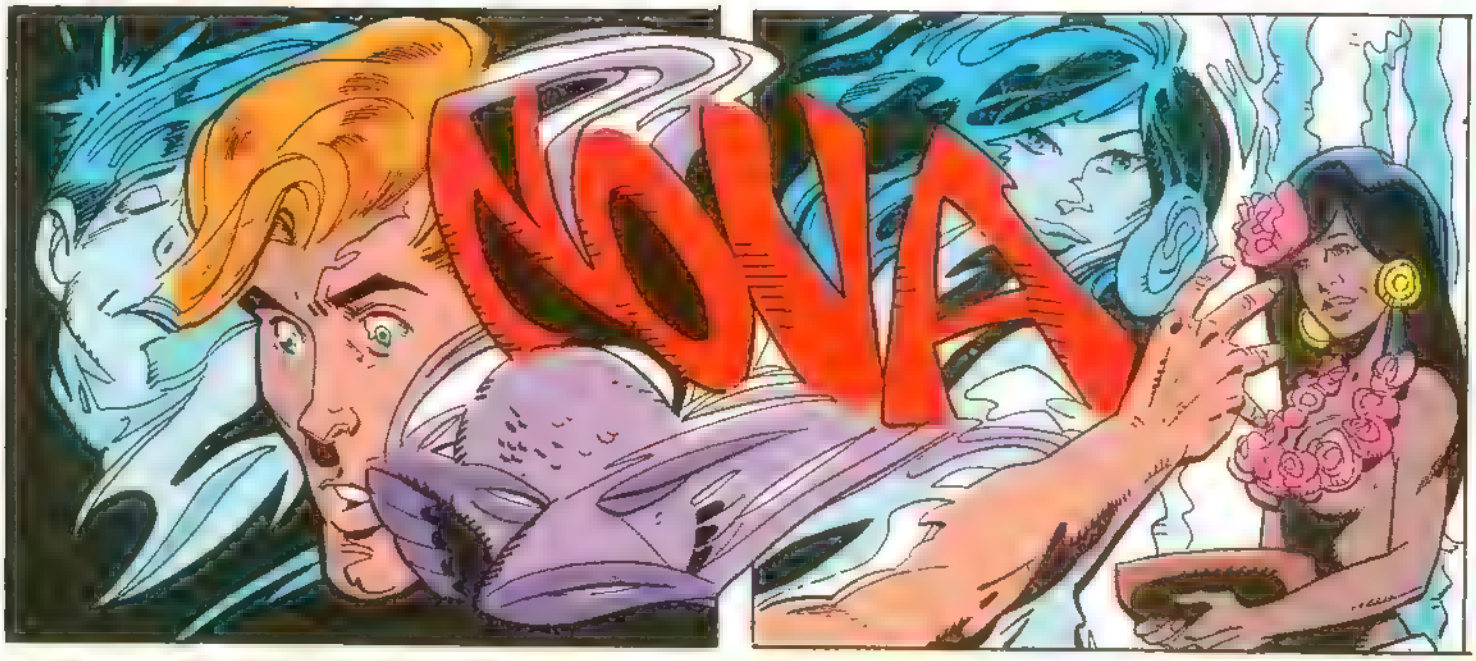
Howard Chaykin's American Flagg!: Hard Times — The classic story that started it all — expanded and fully painted, printed on slick coated stock in a 100 page graphic novel! The permanent edition of the most honored comic book of the 1980s!

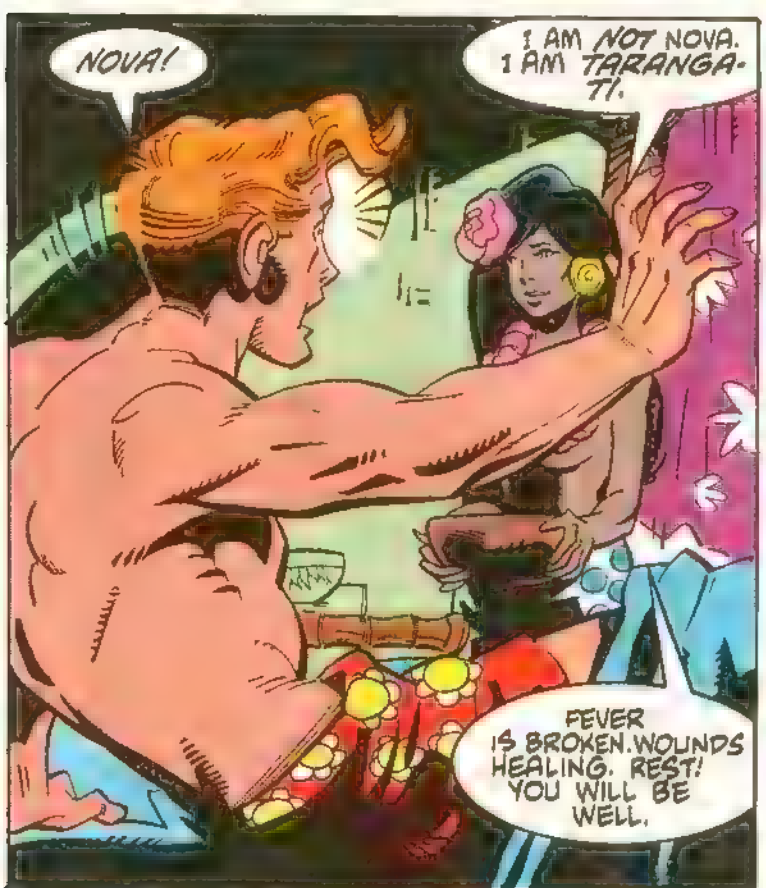
Jon Sable, Freelance #27 — Concluding **Mike Grell's** story about the truth of Jon Sable's parents ... and continuing **Shatter,** the computer-generated comic book now written and drawn by **Michael Saenz!**

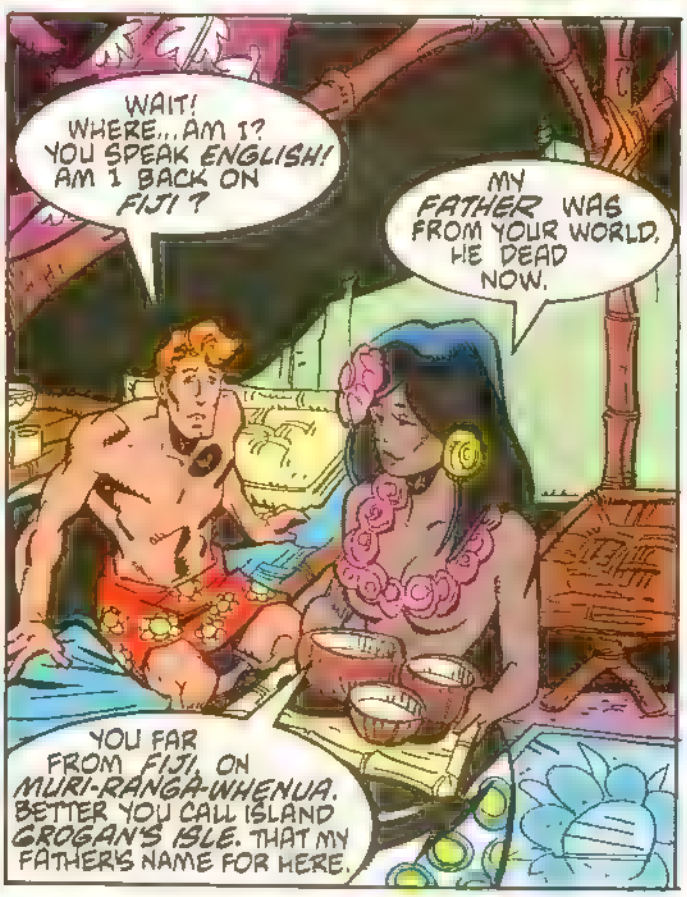
Nexus #11 — **Mike Baron** and **Steve Rude** push Nexus right up to the breaking point as Judah Maccabee and the talking heads must "Get Clausius!"

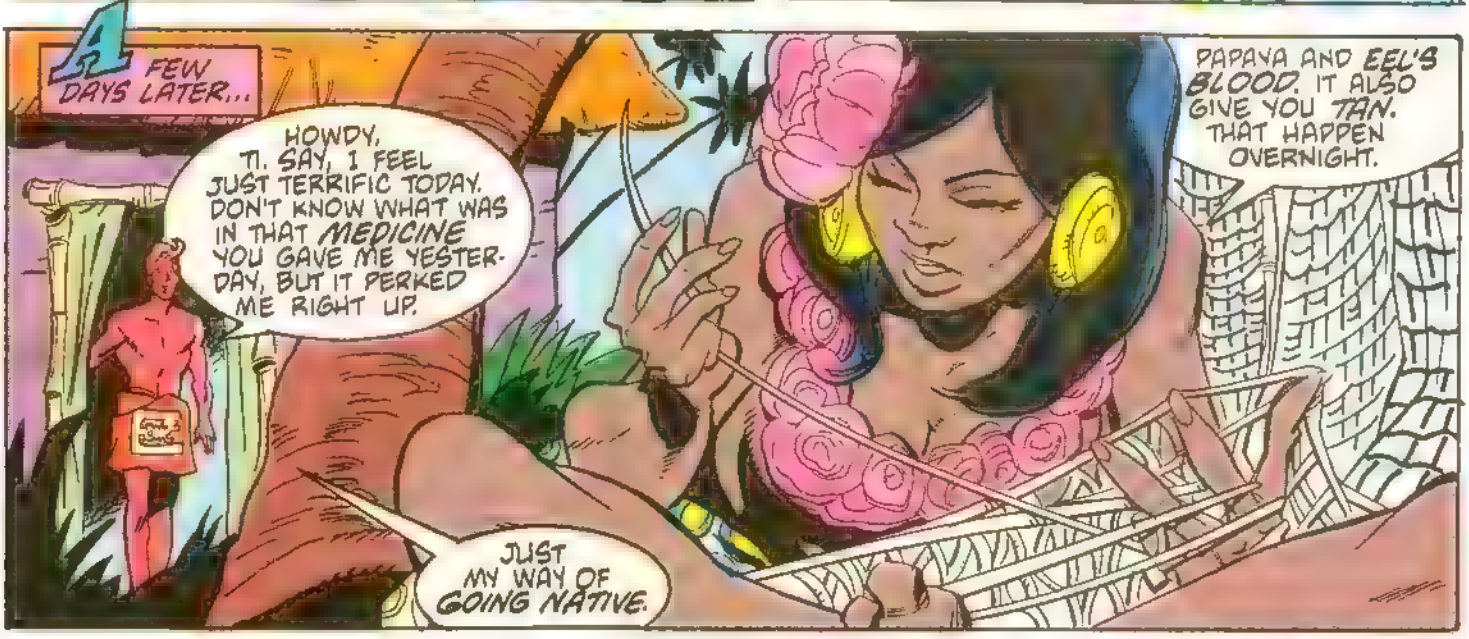
Starslayer #31 — Introducing new penciller **Jon Eddings,** who, along with writer **John Ostrander** and inker **Mark Nelson,** take Torin and crew on a tour de force! Plus: **Peter Gillis, Tom Sutton** and **Don Lomax** continue the adventures of **The Black Flame!**

YOU KNOW, BEING A SHARK ISN'T TOO BAD. I'M RESPECTED BY OTHER FISH. I GET TO SEE SOME FABULOUS SCENERY. MAYBE I OUGHT TO STAY A SHARK... FOR GOOD.
HEY, THERE, FELLOWS. MIND IF I JOIN YOU?
WANT TO TAKE MY PICTURE? I'LL BET YOU GUYS NEVER SAW AN ORANGE SHARK BEFORE.
SHARK APPROACHING!
WATCH IT! HE'S IN AN ATTACK MODE!
TAKE IT EASY! OW! I'M A VEGE-TARIAN! AUFF!
SPING
SPING
SPING
SO, MAYBE NOT A SHARK.


NOVA

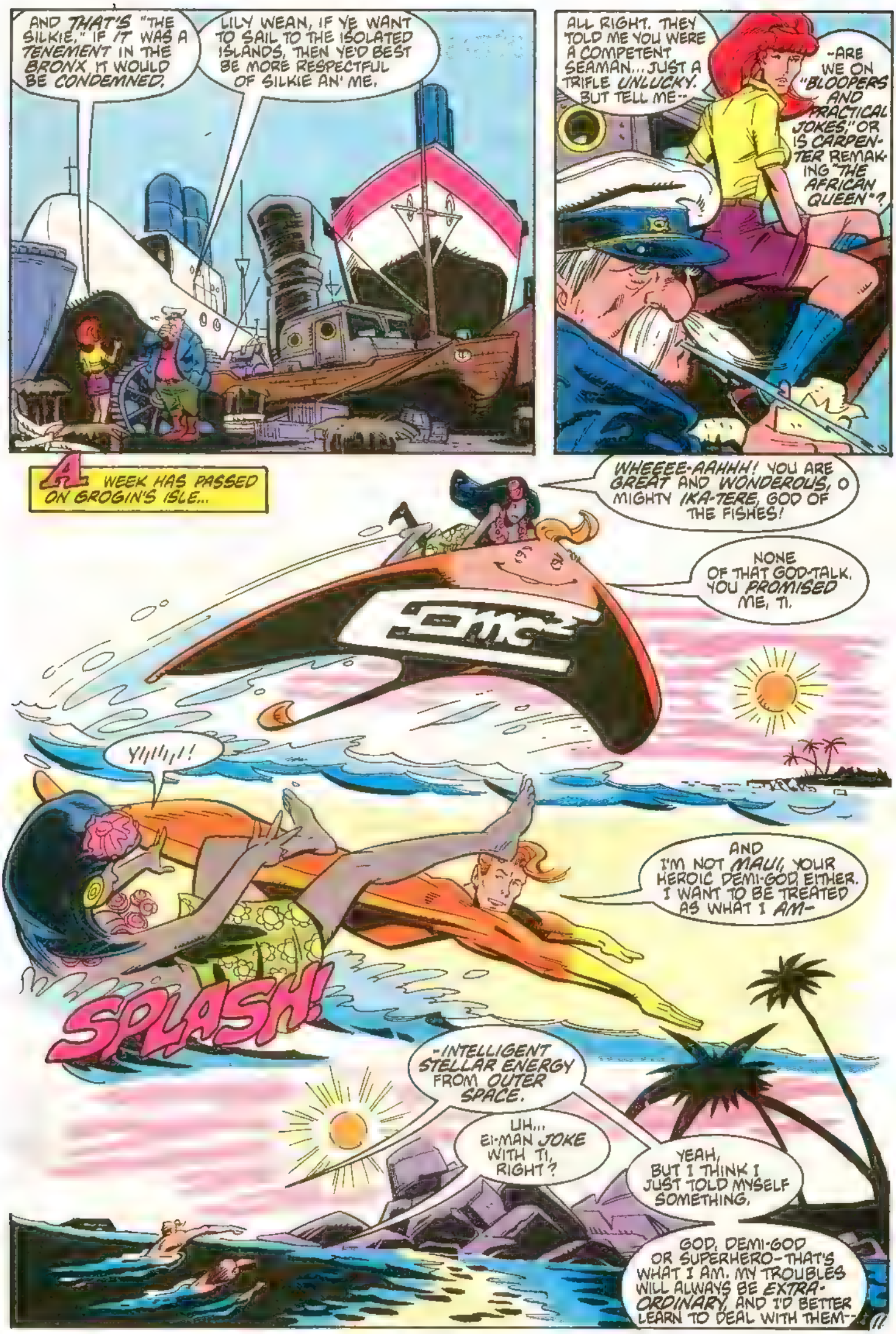

NOVA!
I AM NOT NOVA. I AM TARANGA-TI.
FEVER IS BROKEN. WOUNDS HEALING. REST! YOU WILL BE WELL.


WAIT! WHERE... AM I? YOU SPEAK ENGLISH! AM I BACK ON FIJI?
MY FATHER WAS FROM YOUR WORLD. HE DEAD NOW.
YOU FAR FROM FIJI, ON MURI-RANGA-WHENUA. BETTER YOU CALL ISLAND GROGAN'S ISLE. THAT MY FATHER'S NAME FOR HERE.


A FEW DAYS LATER...
HOWDY, TI. SAY, I FEEL JUST TERRIFIC TODAY. DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS IN THAT MEDICINE YOU GAVE ME YESTERDAY, BUT IT PERKED ME RIGHT UP.
PAPAYA AND EEL'S BLOOD. IT ALSO GIVE YOU TAN. THAT HAPPEN OVERNIGHT.
JUST MY WAY OF GOING NATIVE.

TI, UHH... WHEN I WAS DELIRIOUS I MUST HAVE SAID A LOT OF THINGS... SOME TRUE, SOME NOT. BUT I WANT YOU TO KNOW THE TRUTH.
I CAME HERE TO ESCAPE FROM... BAD MEMORIES...
NOVA? YOU TRY TO FORGET OR REMEMBER HER?
CAN'T FORGET HER. DON'T THINK I REALLY WANT TO. BUT I HAVE TO TRY AND START A NEW LIFE HERE.
EI-MAN. MUST NOT FALL IN LOVE WITH THIS ISLAND. IS NOT WHAT YOU THINK IT IS. IS NOT PARADISE. IS--
EI-MAN! YOU ARE WELL. GOOD! MAYBE NOW, LITTLE SISTER STOP TALK OF YOU ALL TIME.
THESE MY BROTHERS. THEY HELP CARRY YOU FROM BEACH. THEY MOKO-WHAKA-EKE-AU AND TAPI TAKARORO.
YOU CALL US MOKO AND TAPI. COME FISH WITH US. YOU HAVE GOOD TIME.
WELL, UH... I DON'T KNOW--
GO, EI-MAN. BRING ME LOTS OF FISH.
YOU BRING NO NETS. HOW YOU PLAN TO CATCH FISH? USE BARE HANDS?
NOT A BAD IDEA.
9

HOPE I DIDN'T STARTLE YOU. IT'S SORT OF SECOND NATURE FOR ME TO DO THINGS LIKE THAT.
WHY YOU NOT TELL US YOU A GOD?!
IT NOT TIME YET.
LOOK, I KNOW WHAT YOU MUST BE THINKING, BUT I'M NOT- WHOA!
CHASE GOD OFF BOAT!
I'LL TALK TO YOU WHEN YOU'VE CALMED DOWN A BIT.
YOU NOT GET AWAY SO EASY!
NO, MOKO! DON'T
THAT NO GOD, IS MAUI!
GREAT TAMA-NUI-TE-RA! I ALMOST KILLED HIM!
ON THE ISLAND OF VANUA LEVU, IN THE FIJI ARCHIPELAGO, NOVA PURSUES OUR ERRANT KNIGHT...
WHATCHA LOOKIN' FER, LILY WEAN?
UM...A SHIP CALLED THE SILKIE, AND A MAN ...CALLED, OH, TELL ME YOU'RE NOT SULIE JOE.
AYE, YE FOUND ME.


AND THAT'S "THE SILKIE," IF IT WAS A TENEMENT IN THE BRONX IT WOULD BE CONDEMNED.
LILY WEAN, IF YE WANT TO SAIL TO THE ISOLATED ISLANDS, THEN YE'D BEST BE MORE RESPECTFUL OF SILKIE AN' ME.
ALL RIGHT. THEY TOLD ME YOU WERE A COMPETENT SEAMAN... JUST A TRIFLE UNLUCKY. BUT TELL ME--
--ARE WE ON "BLOOPERS AND PRACTICAL JOKES," OR IS CARPENTER REMAKING "THE AFRICAN QUEEN"?
A WEEK HAS PASSED ON GROGIN'S ISLE...
WHEEEE-AAHHH! YOU ARE GREAT AND WONDEROUS, O MIGHTY IKA-TERE, GOD OF THE FISHES!
NONE OF THAT GOD-TALK, YOU PROMISED ME, TI.
YI!!!!!!!!
AND I'M NOT MAUI, YOUR HEROIC DEMI-GOD EITHER. I WANT TO BE TREATED AS WHAT I AM--
SPLASH!
--INTELLIGENT STELLAR ENERGY FROM OUTER SPACE.
UH... EI-MAN JOKE WITH TI, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT I THINK I JUST TOLD MYSELF SOMETHING.
GOD, DEMI-GOD OR SUPERHERO--THAT'S WHAT I AM. MY TROUBLES WILL ALWAYS BE EXTRA-ORDINARY, AND I'D BETTER LEARN TO DEAL WITH THEM--

--AND NOT RUN OFF TO PARADISE WHEN THEY BECOME TOO MUCH FOR ME.
TI IS GLAD YOU HAVE CLEARED YOUR HEAD. BUT, MUST NOT MISTAKE MURI FOR PARADISE. THERE IS MORE TO US THAN WORK AND PLAY.
YOU ALSO SAID I MUSN'T FALL IN LOVE. BUT I--
NO! YOU DON'T BELONG TO ISLAND. YOU NOT UNDER-STAND!
TI! DON'T LEAVE. IT WAS THE MOMENT... MY FEELINGS...THE ISLAND. I DIDN'T MEAN TO EMBARASS YOU!
I AM NOT FREE. I BELONG TO THE GODS AND THEY COMING FOR ME... SOON.
WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

RANGI-NU! PAPA-TU-A-NUKA! RANGI-NU! PAPA-TU-A-NUKA!
MOKO! BEHIND YOU!
THIS MORNING, WHEN I WENT TO VISIT TI, SHE WASN'T HOME. SO I WENT TO THE VILLAGE AND FOUND IT DESERTED.
TI NOT WANT YOU COME. SHE HOPE YOU SLEEP LATE.
YOU POWERFUL DEMI-GOD BUT YOU NO MATCH FOR GODS!
"... TAWIRI-MA-TEA, THE GOD OF WIND AND STORMS!"
KER-SHAK!
YOUR PEOPLE HAVE KEPT THEIR WORD. THEY WILL BE SAFE FOR ANOTHER YEAR.
IF YOU ARE MERCIFUL... THEN STRIKE QUICKLY!
WHERE'D THAT STORM COME FROM?
NO STORM! IT IS COMING OF HIM...
NOOOOO!

WHA--?
TZANG!
SO, THE PEOPLE HAVE A CHAMPION. WHERE DID THEY FIND YOU.
SORT OF CAME IN WITH THE TIDE ONE DAY
NOW HEAR THIS!! I DON'T KNOW WHO OR WHAT YOU ARE BUT IF YOU CLAIM I'M SOME KIND OF CHAMPION, THEN THAT'S WHAT I AM. STAY CLEAR OF THIS ISLAND!
VERY WELL. IF YOU WISH TO CHALLENGE US, COME TO THE HALL OF RANGI AN PAPA, THERE YOU WILL FIND TARANGA-TI.
TI? SHE'S RIGHT OVER-
--THERE?
DID YOU THINK YOU WERE TOYING WITH MYTHS AND LEGENDS, MORTAL? WE WILL SEE WHAT STUFF YOU ARE MADE OF, AND THEN WE WILL CRUSH YOU.
HA-HA-HA-HA!
RIGHT NOW, CHICAGO LOOKS MIGHTY GOOD TO ME.
14

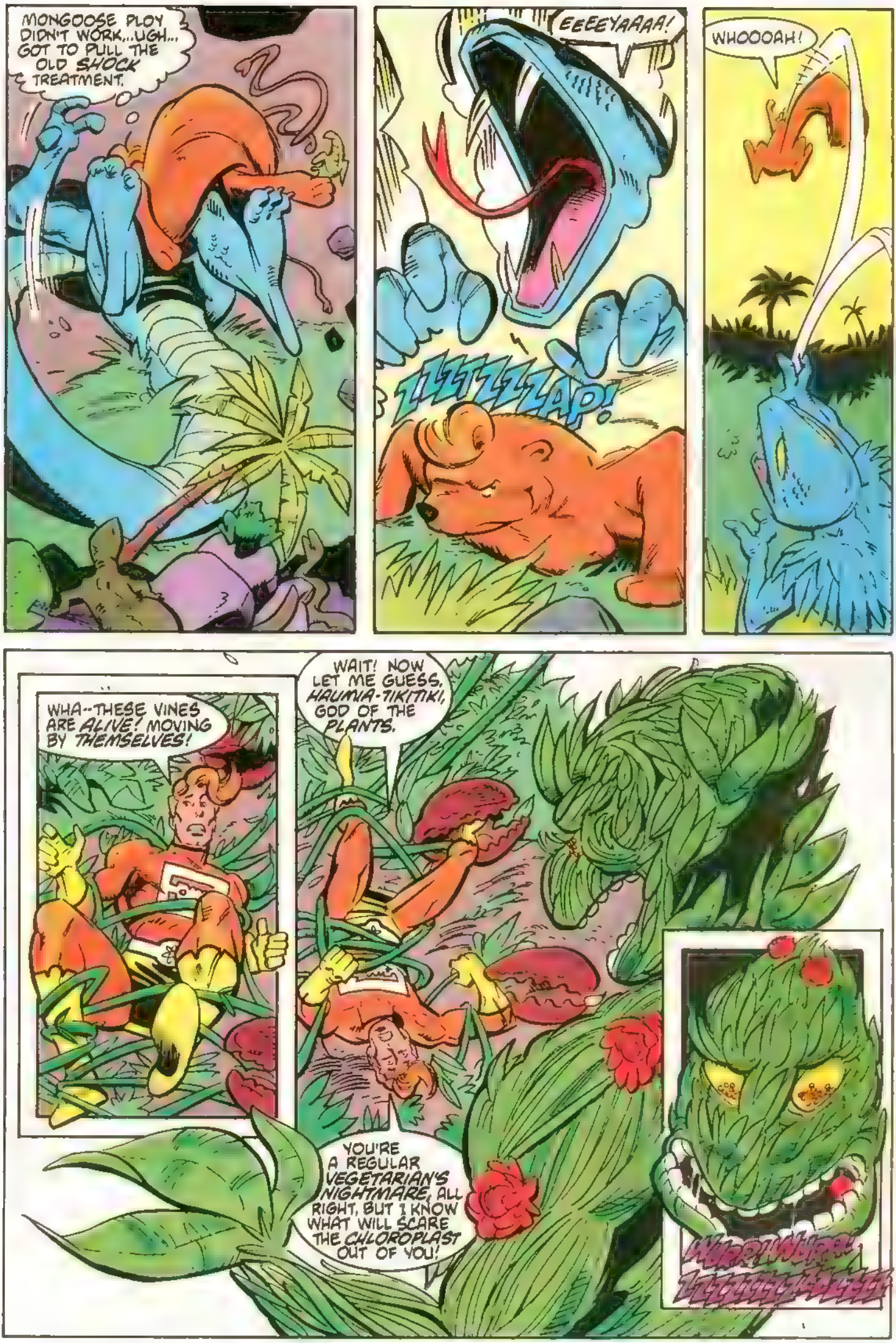
THIS IS ...BLURP... RIDICULOUS. NEVER BEEN ...BLUP... SEA SICK BEFORE. OOOHHH!
FAEM! STORM'S A-COMIN' THIS WAY, MIZ KANE. SHOULD TAKE YE MIND OFF'N YE PAINS.
CAN WE ...URP... WEATHER THE STORM? WILL THE "SILKIE" HOLD TOGETHER?
CAN'T RIGHTLY TELL. FIERCEST STORM I EVER SEEN, AN' IT COME UP SO SUDDEN. SEEMS LIKE A TEMPER TANTRUM O' SOME GRUMLY GOD.
CUT THE COLORFUL ORKNEY BROGUE AND TELL ME STRAIGHT-UGH! CAN WE MAKE IT-OR NOT?
IF A BIG WAVE DON'T HIT US!
KER-RASH!
LEASTWAYS, MIZ KANE, YE DON'T APPEAR TO BE SEA SICK ANY-MORE.
THE FEAR OF DROWNING CAN BE AN AMAZING PANACEA.
CANNED FOOD. CANNED WATER. FIRST-AID KIT.
MIZ KANE, THAT WOULDN'T BE SHARK REPELLANT, WOULD IT?
WHY WOULD WE NEED...
...SHARK REPELLANT!!?

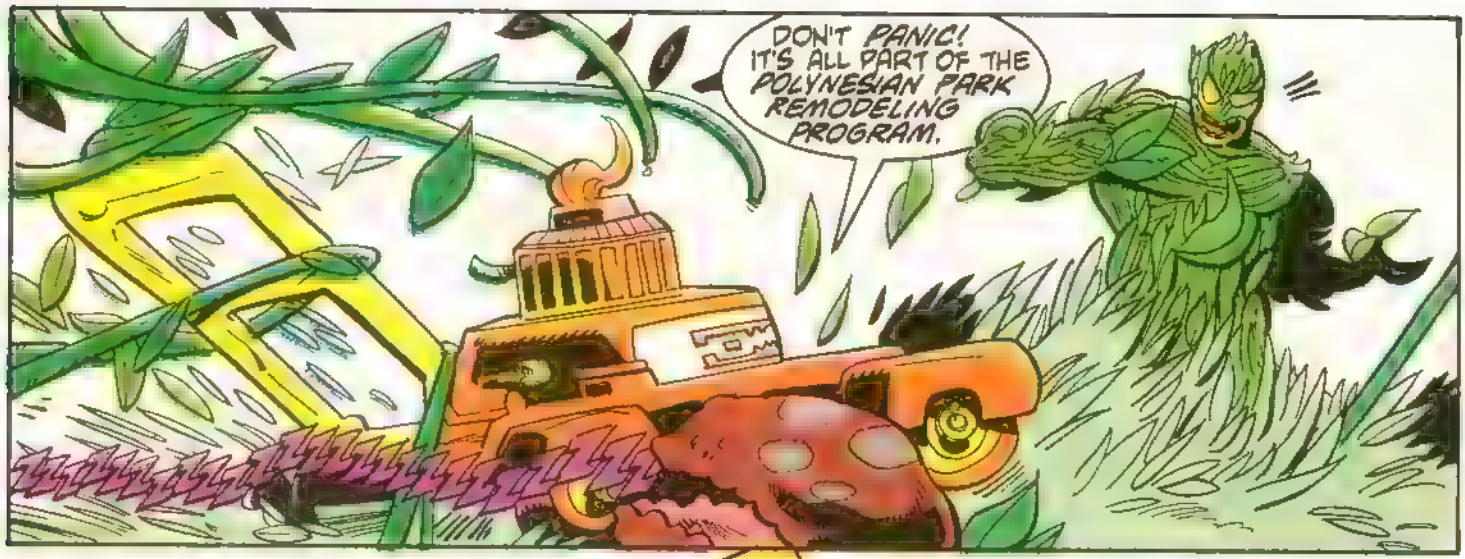
IN ANOTHER PART OF THE SOUTH SEAS..
MOKO SAID THE ISLE OF THE GODS IS ONLY A FEW MILES SOUTH OF GROGIN'S ISLE. DON'T SEE IT YET, BUT I KNOW I'M HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.
HE ALSO SAID TO EXPECT TROUBLE ALONG THE WAY.
THAT'S TROUBLE!
HEY! WILL YOU LET ME GO IF I PROMISE NEVER TO EAT CALIMARI AGAIN?
THOUGHT NOT.
OW! OW! OUCH! THOSE LITTLE SUCKERS HURT!
NO RESPECT FOR WHALES, EH? THEN HOW ABOUT...
...POSEIDON!
OMG!

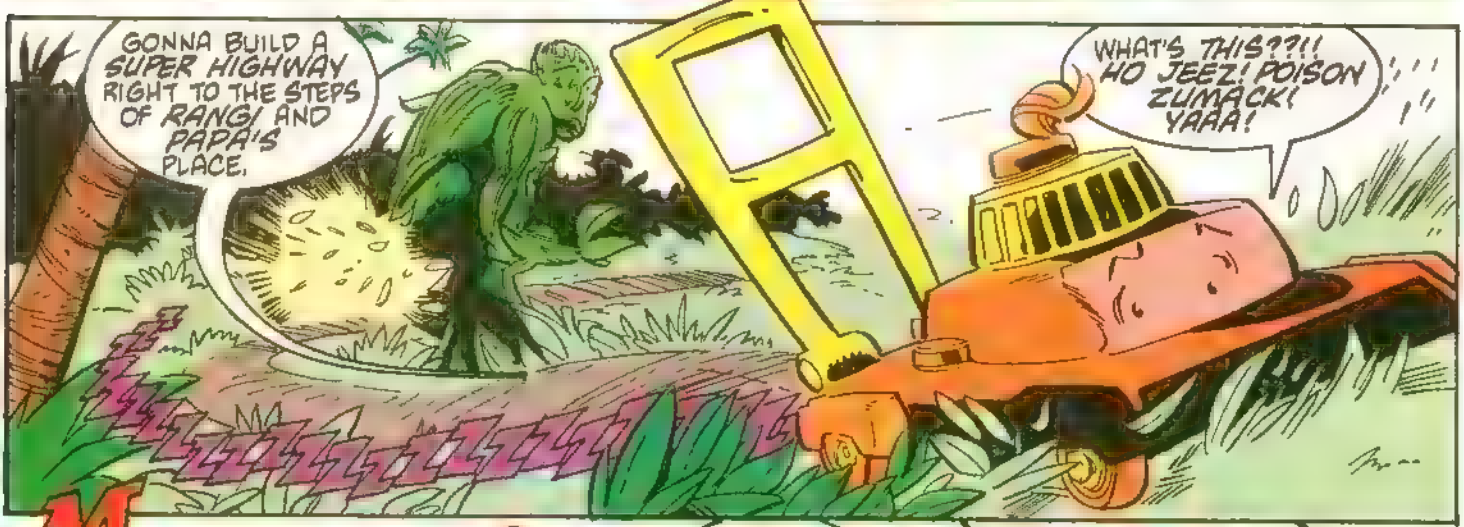
DON'T BE AFRAID. I'M NOT REALLY SO HORRIBLE, SEE?
BUT I AM! SEA CLOWN, PREPARE TO MEET IKA-TERE THE FISH-GOD! THEN PREPARE TO DIE!
A LITTLE ELECTROLYSIS* ACTION AND I'VE GOT ALL THE HYDROGEN I NEED TO TURN ME INTO A LIGHTER-THAN-AIR BALLOON!
WHOOOSH
TOO POWERFUL-- MUST UNGH! GET HIS STRENGTH FROM WATER! CAN'T DE-- UGH! DEFEAT HIM IN HIS OWN ELEMENT!
A BLOWFISH! THAT'S AN IDEA!
*TO BREAK DOWN H_2O (WATER) INTO H (HYDROGEN) AND O (OXYGEN) BY PASSING AN ELECTRIC CURRENT THROUGH WATER. -RAO.

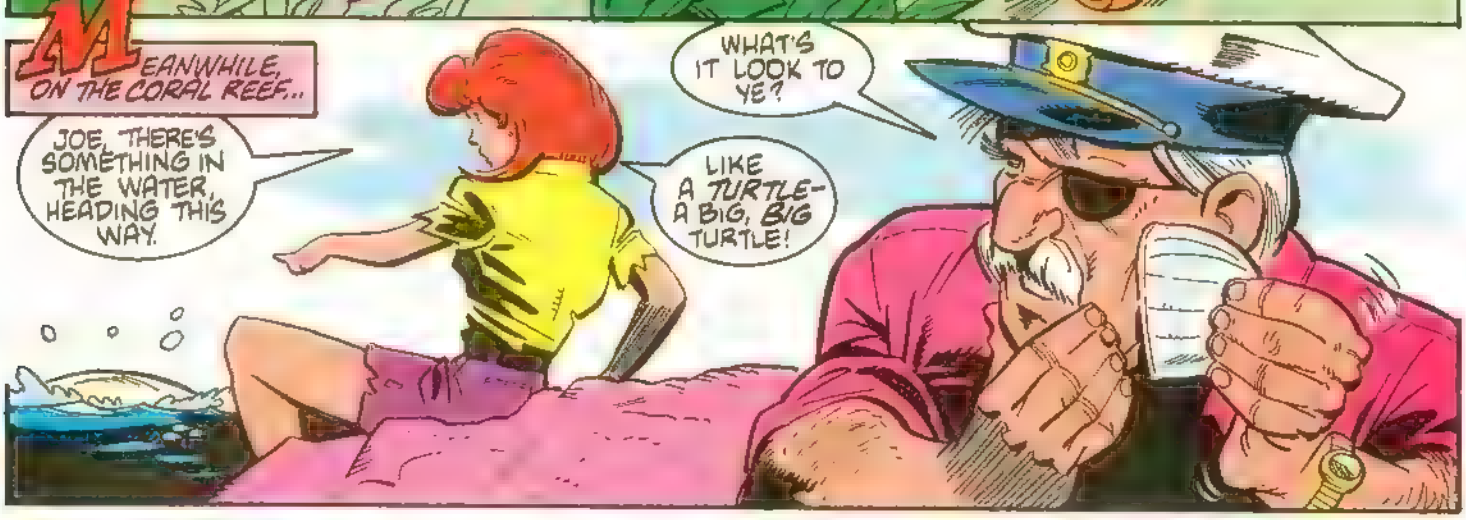
SWOOSH!
YOU HAVE ...GASP... WON, MAUI. I AM... HELPLESS... IN THE AIR. THE OTHERS... GASP... WILL NOT BE SO EASY TO... DEFEAT!
NOW... MUST GO... HOME!
IF IKA-TERE WAS "...EASY..." THEN I'M IN FOR ONE HECK OF A MEAN GAUNTLET.
AT LEAST I CAN SEE THE ISLE OF THE GODS FROM HERE.
WITH HIS EYES ON THE MAJESTIC ISLAND IN THE DISTANCE, E-MAN OVERLOOKS A TINY CORAL REEF DIRECTLY BELOW HIM.
101, 102, 103-OUCH, AYE, BUT YONDER'S A WEIRD LOOKIN' WEATHER BALLOON-104, 105, 106...
REALLY? WHAT'S SO WEIRD ABOUT IT?
...107, 108-- IT'S ORANGE- 109, 110...
NAW...

SEEMS QUIET. MAYBE THE GODS, OR WHATEVER THEY ARE, WANT TO PARLAY.
THERE'S MY GOAL, THE HALL OF RANGI-NU AND PAPA-TU-A-NUKU, THE KING AND QUEEN OF GODS.
IT ISSSS A GOAL YOU WILL NEVER REACH!
SSSSSS! YOU THINK, MAUI, THAT YOU CAN DEFEAT THE HOARDSSSS OF TE-TU-WANAWANA?
NOT ME. NOSSIR! BUT MAYBE~
--THE MONGOOSE! YUM-YUM! LOVE TO EAT THEM WRIGGLY, LITTLE SNAKES AND LIZARDS!
READ ONCE THAT ANIMALS WOULD RATHER BLUFF THAN FIGHT! HOPE THIS BLUFF WORKS.
HE MUST NOT HAVE READ THAT BOOK.
HSSSSSS


MONGOOSE PLOY DIDN'T WORK...UGH... GOT TO PULL THE OLD SHOCK TREATMENT.
EEEEYAAAA!
LLLLLLAP!
WHOOOAH!
WHA--THESE VINES ARE ALIVE! MOVING BY THEMSELVES!
WAIT! NOW LET ME GUESS, HAUMIA-TIKITIKI, GOD OF THE PLANTS.
YOU'RE A REGULAR VEGETARIAN'S NIGHTMARE, ALL RIGHT, BUT I KNOW WHAT WILL SCARE THE CHLOROPLAST OUT OF YOU!
WURP! WURP!
LLLLLL


DON'T PANIC! IT'S ALL PART OF THE POLYNESIAN PARK REMODELING PROGRAM.


GONNA BUILD A SUPER HIGHWAY RIGHT TO THE STEPS OF RANGI AND PAPA'S PLACE.
WHAT'S THIS??!! HO JEEZ! POISON ZUMACK! YAAA!


MEANWHILE, ON THE CORAL REEF...
JOE, THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE WATER, HEADING THIS WAY.
WHAT'S IT LOOK TO YE?
LIKE A TURTLE- A BIG, BIG TURTLE!

THAT'S NO SEA TORTOISE SHELL I EVER SEEN. KINDA SHINES, LIKE IT WERE FIBERGLASS.
YEAH! AND I GOT THIS STRANGE FEELING, AS IF IT'S SUDDENLY GOING TO DO SOMETHING, LIKE EXPLODE, OR...

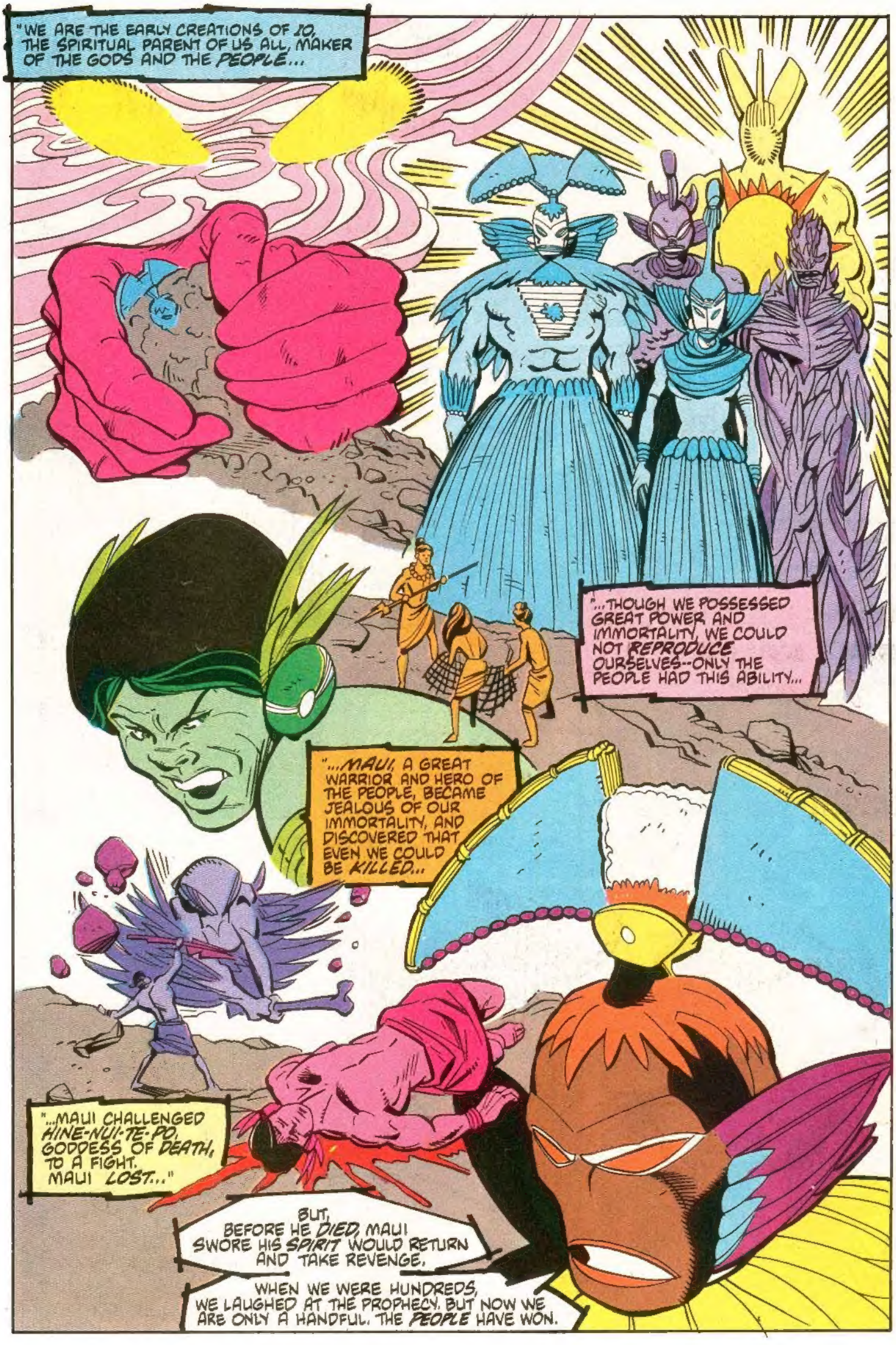
POP!

A KOALA!
NOT JUST A KOALA, TEDDY-Q!
I THOUGHT I LEFT YOU BACK AT VANUA LEVU, AT THE HOTEL. WHERE'D YOU GET THE SUB?
YOU KNOW, TEDDY, E-MAN TOLD ME THAT YOU'RE SHAPED DIFFERENT FROM OTHER KOALA$*, AND YOU CERTAINLY DON'T ACT LIKE ANY KOALA I'VE EVER READ ABOUT.
YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT SOME ALIEN BEING IN DISGUISE.
*SEE E-MAN #22 RICK.
THE SUB'S SHIPSHAPE, MIZ KANE. I'LL HAVE YE ON GROGIN'S ISLE IN NO TIME AT ALL.
HOP ABOARD, TEDDY, THERE'S ENOUGH ROOM INSIDE FOR ALL OF US.
FAREWELL, LITTLE REEF. I'LL NEVER WEAR CORAL JEWELRY AGAIN.
I MADE IT THIS FAR, BUT I SUSPECT THAT RANGI AND PAPA HAVE ONE MORE TRICK UP THEIR IMPERIAL SLEEVES...
...AND I'M BETTING THAT THEY SAVED THE BEST FOR LAST!
DARN ZUMACK! ITCHES LIKE CRAZY!
SUN SURE IS MIGHTY BRIGHT ALL OF A SUDDEN.

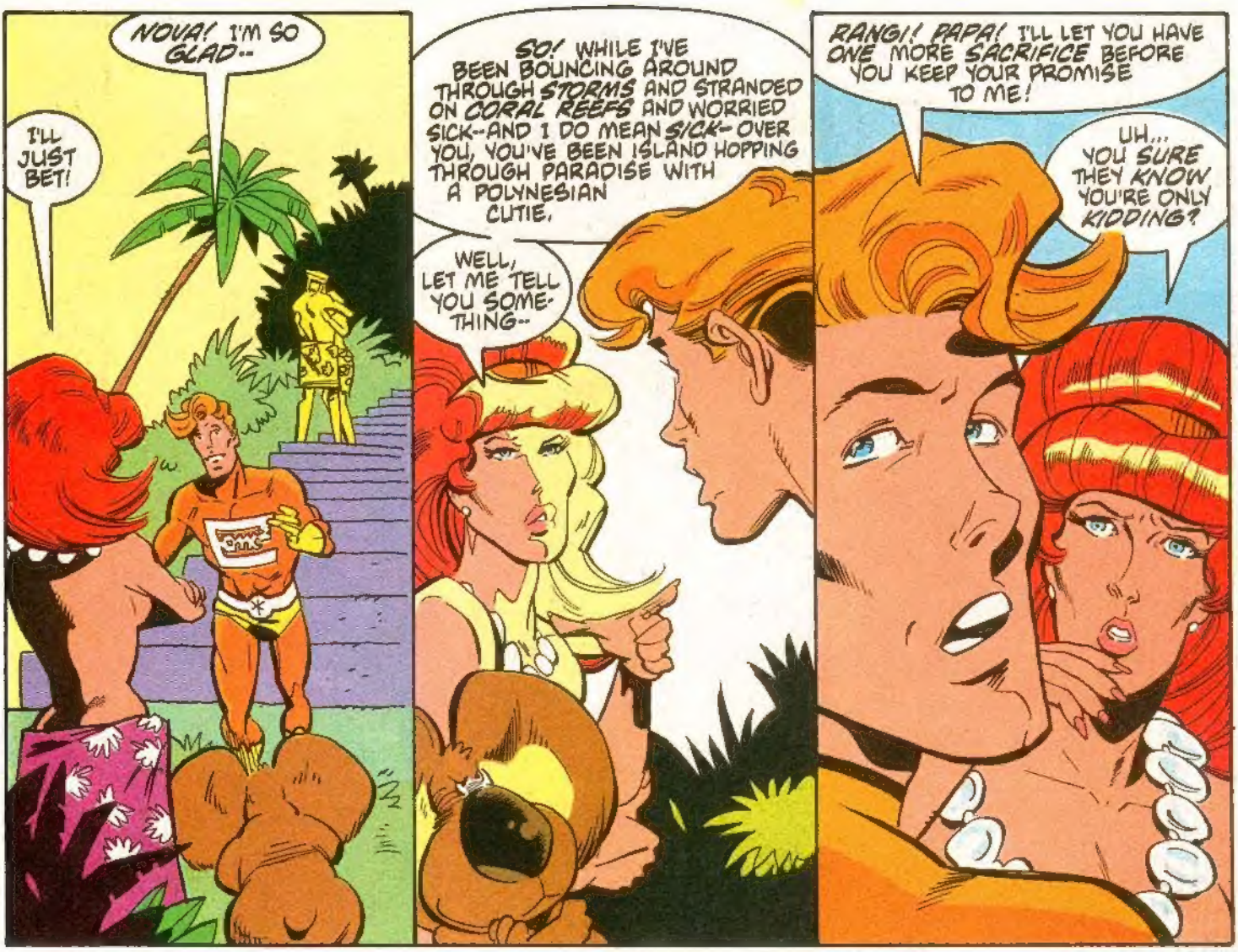
ALLOW THE SUN TO VAPORIZE THE POISON FROM YOUR SKIN!
TAMA-NUI-TE-RA!

YOU HAVE LEARNED TO PRONOUNCE OUR NAMES VERY WELL-- E-MAN! YOU HAVE EARNED THE RIGHT TO CALL ME TANE!
OKAY. TANE IT IS.
LISTEN, I CAME HERE TO TALK, NOT TO FIGHT. IF I HAD SHOOTIN' IRONS, I'D LEAVE THEM WITH YOU--BUT THE WAY IT IS, I HAVE TO ASK YOU TO TRUST ME...
...WHILE I CHAT WITH YOUR KING AND QUEEN.
NO CHANCE!
YOU WILL NOT FIND ME SO EASY TO DEFEAT. UNLIKE MY BROTHERS, MY POWER IS EQUAL ...GREATER...THAN YOURS!
AS YOU WISH, FELLA. BUT I CAN TURN ON THE JUICE, TOO!
HE WASN'T BLUFFING! SUCH... RAW ENERGY! IF HE KEEPS THIS UP, WE BOTH COULD--

THE ROYAL PALACE OF...
...RANGI-NU AND PAPA-TU -A-NUKU...
...THE SKY FATHER AND EARTH MOTHER!
THE PROPHECY IS A MYTH! TANE KNOWS THIS CREATURE. THIS... E-MAN IS MERELY A GOD. LIKE US, HE IS A CREATION OF IO. LIKE US, HE HAS HIS LIMITATIONS.
RANGI, MAUI HAS COME FOR US AT LAST! THE PROPHECY--
OUR SON, TAMA-NUI-TE-RA, WILL TRIUMPH.
'FRAID NOT. HE ALMOST DID BUT I GUESS HE WASN'T BRIGHT ENOUGH!
I'D SURE LIKE TO KNOW WHAT YOU PEOPLE ARE. I THINK I'VE EARNED THE RIGHT TO BE TOLD.
YOU HAVE


"WE ARE THE EARLY CREATIONS OF IO, THE SPIRITUAL PARENT OF US ALL, MAKER OF THE GODS AND THE PEOPLE...
"...THOUGH WE POSSESSED GREAT POWER AND IMMORTALITY, WE COULD NOT REPRODUCE OURSELVES--ONLY THE PEOPLE HAD THIS ABILITY...
"...MAUI, A GREAT WARRIOR AND HERO OF THE PEOPLE, BECAME JEALOUS OF OUR IMMORTALITY, AND DISCOVERED THAT EVEN WE COULD BE KILLED...
"...MAUI CHALLENGED HINE-NUI-TE-PO, GODDESS OF DEATH, TO A FIGHT. MAUI LOST..."
BUT, BEFORE HE DIED, MAUI SWORE HIS SPIRIT WOULD RETURN AND TAKE REVENGE.
WHEN WE WERE HUNDREDS, WE LAUGHED AT THE PROPHECY. BUT NOW WE ARE ONLY A HANDFUL. THE PEOPLE HAVE WON.

SOME DAY THERE WILL BE NONE OF US LEFT--BUT UNTIL THEN, WE WISH ONLY TO BE LET ALONE.
FAIR ENOUGH, BUT YOU'VE GOT TO TURN TI OVER TO ME, AND... CUT OUT THE HUMAN SACRIFICES!
YES, THEY GAVE US A HOLD ON THE NEARBY ISLANDERS--BUT I DID NOT WANT THEM.
HERE IS TI. TAKE HER AND GO!
DID YOU HEAR WHAT RANGI SAID AS WE LEFT? HE MUMBLED: "...TWILIGHT OF THE GODS..."
I FEEL SORRY FOR THEM.
SOMEONE'S COMING TOWARD US! NO! IT CAN'T BE!
HI, LILY WEAN*, IT TOOK ME A LONG TIME TO COME BACK TO YE, BUT I MADE IT. WON'T EVER LEAVE YE AGAIN.
DADDY.. WE THOUGHT YOU WERE..
*SCOTTISH BROGUE FOR "LOVELY LITTLE ONE"--RAO.


NOVA! I'M SO GLAD--
I'LL JUST BET!
SO! WHILE I'VE BEEN BOUNCING AROUND THROUGH STORMS AND STRANDED ON CORAL REEFS AND WORRIED SICK--AND I DO MEAN SICK--OVER YOU, YOU'VE BEEN ISLAND HOPPING THROUGH PARADISE WITH A POLYNESIAN CUTIE.
WELL, LET ME TELL YOU SOMETHING--
RANG!! PAPA! I'LL LET YOU HAVE ONE MORE SACRIFICE BEFORE YOU KEEP YOUR PROMISE TO ME!
UH... YOU SURE THEY KNOW YOU'RE ONLY KIDDING?

corn flakes

THE END